

**MINUTES OF THE
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE**
Saturday, July 9, 2011 – 11:00 a.m. – Moab, Utah

Members Present:

Sen. Ralph Okerlund, Senate Chair
Rep. Kenneth W. Sumsion, House Chair
Sen. Gene Davis
Sen. Benjamin M. McAdams
Rep. Roger E. Barrus
Rep. Melvin R. Brown
Rep. Gage Froerer
Rep. Francis D. Gibson
Rep. Neal B. Hendrickson
Rep. Don L. Ipson
Rep. Brian S. King
Rep. Todd E. Kiser
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold
Sen. Stuart C. Reid
Rep. Christine F. Watkins
Rep. R. Curt Webb

Members Excused:

Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell
President Michael G. Waddoups
Speaker Rebecca D. Lockhart

Staff Present:

Mr. John Q. Cannon, Managing Policy Analyst
Mr. Joseph T. Wade, Policy Analyst
Mr. Richard North, Policy Analyst
Mr. John L. Fellows, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Wendy L. Bangerter, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Okerlund called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.

Members of the Committee introduced themselves and indicated the areas of the state that they represent.

MOTION: Sen. McAdams moved to approve the minutes of the Redistricting Committee meetings held June 21 and 22, 2011. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Overview of Redistricting

Mr. Wade gave a presentation on what redistricting is, why it is done, and the redistricting principles that were adopted by the Committee at the May 4, 2011 meeting. He discussed the ideal populations for Senate and House districts and outlined the timeline for the redistricting process.

Mr. Wade gave an overview of the redistricting public website, RedistrictUtah.com and demonstrated the online redistricting tool that allows the public to create redistricting plans. He explained that the plans created can be shared or submitted to the Legislature for review and will be posted on RedistrictUtah.com.

3. Presentation of Redistricting Plans

Sen. Okerlund asked if there were any in the audience who had submitted plans through the online redistricting tool that they would like to review for the Committee. There was no response.

Sen. Okerlund discussed the Senate plan named Okerlund Plan B. He noted that the plan will require some changes that will have a ripple effect on the other districts. He outlined those areas of the state that have experienced a significant increase in population growth. He emphasized that he used comments, ideas, and plans that had been submitted by the public in the creation of his plan.

Rep. Sumsion distributed his proposed Complete House Plan and explained how he began the process of drawing these maps. He explained their efforts to mesh the 75 House districts into one complete statewide plan. He reiterated the requirement to use 2010 census data.

Rep. Barrus reviewed and explained the Weber and Davis County areas of the Complete House Plan.

Congressional Plans I and J were distributed to committee members and the public.

Sen. Davis reviewed his statewide Utah Congressional Plan I.

Committee discussion followed.

Committee members responded to questions from the public.

4. Public Comment and Committee Discussion About Redistricting

Ms. Karen Robinson, citizen, asked questions regarding the maps that had been reviewed.

Ms. Audrey Graham, county council member, suggested that the maps include a legend to help the public know immediately what the tags and other icons represent. She spoke in opposition to the "pizza" method.

Mr. Rick Bailey, San Juan County Administrator, commented on the plans that had been presented speaking in favor of the proposed Senate plan. He discussed issues concerning the current model for House districts. They would like better representation in regards to the Congressional delegation.

Sen. Okerlund called for a show of hands from the audience regarding how many people preferred three congressional seats along the Wasatch Front and one throughout the rest of the state or would they prefer it be split so that all four congressional seats include more rural areas. Most respondents preferred that each Congressional district include rural areas. He emphasized the necessity and importance of the process.

Ms. Diana Carroll, Grand County auditor/clerk, asked that counties be kept together as much as possible for congressional voting. She remarked on how much more costly it is to run an election when they are split.

Ms. Jean Binyon, Grand County resident, asked that counties be kept together for both the House and Senate districts. She asked about regulations of Congressmen living inside the district they represent. The Committee explained that the United States Constitution only requires that members of Congress be residents of that state that they represent: there is no requirement that they reside in the district that they represent.

Ms. Sarah Bauman, Moab City Council member, requested a visual representation of the "pizza" plan that create districts that cover a combination of urban and rural communities and counties versus rural only for

congressional districts.

Mr. Bob Greenberg, Moab resident, spoke in favor of the "pizza" plan, saying that the "donut" plan is not appropriate to fit the differences in complexion and needs of the various counties.

Ms. Karen Robinson, resident, asked questions regarding the McIff Option A plan and the cut off date for submitting a map.

Mr. Tom Moreau, resident, spoke in favor of the "pizza" plan as opposed to the "donut" plan.

Mr. Mike Binyon, talked about the difficulty of having a split city or county.

Mayor Dave Sakrison said he liked having two legislators represent Moab. He expressed appreciation to the Committee for holding a public meeting in Moab.

Chair Okerlund and Rep. Sumsion expressed appreciation to the public for their ideas and suggestions to help with the redistricting process.

5. Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. King moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Okerlund adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.